<u>VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE[1]</u>

In the Claims

Claims 38, 41, 44, 45, and 47-50 have been amended as follows:

(Amended)

38.   An Internet communication system comprising:

(a)   communication means connected to the Internet and rendered operable for sending communication information [a ring signal and thus for] through initiating an outgoing communication link to an offline communication device;

(b)   a control system for controlling operation of said communication means; [and]

(c)   operating instructions available to said control system for requesting said communication means to send said communication information [ring signal] in accordance with a request submitted through an incoming communication link from a remote communication device, so as to allow said Internet communication system to provide requested communication from said remote communication device to said offline remote communication device via the Internet[.]; and

(d)   keep-alive operating instructions to be stored in keep-alive memory circuitry of said offline remote communication device comprising a switchable main power-supply system that is deactivated for conserving energy in a keep-alive state;

whereby said keep-alive operating instructions are provided for rendering said offline remote communication device communicable from said keep-alive state with said communication means in such a manner that at least the presence of said communication information is delivered to said offline remote communication device so as to establish said requested communication instantly.

(Amended)

41.   The Internet communication system of claim 38, wherein said communication means is adapted to comprise a plurality of local communication circuitry connected to the Internet at separate locations, and wherein said operation instructions are adapted to comprise a step of selecting one of said local communication circuitry that is situated at a location with an area code in accordance with said request to send said communication information [ring signal] to said offline remote communication device.

(Amended)

44.   The Internet communication system of claim 38 further comprising memory storage for storing information to be delivered thereto, and wherein said operating instructions are provided for requesting said communication means to send a message to said offline remote communication device through said outgoing communication link to instantly notify the delivering of said communication information.

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[1] Brackets "[]" indicate deletions and underlining "__" indicates insertions.

(Amended)

45. A method for enabling an Internet service provider to provide requested communications instantly, comprising the steps of:

    (a)   providing communication means operable (i) for establishing an incoming communication link to the Internet when receiving an incoming communication request [ring signal] from a remote communication device and (ii) for initiating an outgoing communication link to send [through sending an] outgoing communication information [ring signal] to an offline remote communication device;

    (b)   providing a control system for controlling operation of said communication means; [and]

    (c)   providing operating instructions available to said control system for instructing said communication means to send said outgoing communication information [ring signal and thus to initiate said outgoing communication link] in accordance with said incoming communication [a] request submitted from said remote communication device, so as to provide requested communication from [allow] said remote communication device to [communicate with] said offline remote communication device; and [via the Internet.]

    (d)   providing keep-alive operating instructions to be stored in keep-alive memory circuitry of said offline remote communication device comprising a switchable main power-supply system that is deactivated for conserving energy in a keep-alive state; whereby said keep-alive operating instructions are provided for rendering said offline remote communication device communicable from said keep-alive state with said communication means in such a manner that at least the presence of said communication information is delivered to said offline remote communication device so as to establish said requested communication instantly.

(Amended)

47. The method of claim 45, wherein said providing communication means is adapted to provide a plurality of local communication circuitry connected to the Internet at separate locations, and wherein said providing operation instructions is adapted to provide a step of selecting one of said local communication circuitry that is situated at a location with an area code in accordance with said request to send said outgoing communication information [ring signal] to said offline remote communication device.

(Amended)

48. The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of (i) determining if a forwarding or routing service is requested, (ii) if yes, instructing said communication means to further send another outgoing communication information [ring signal] to another offline remote communication device accordingly, [so as to initiate another outgoing communication link,] and (iii) forwarding or routing requested communication information to said another remote communication device.

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(Amended)

49. A communication operating system for enabling an Internet communication system to provide requested communication links instantly, comprising the steps of:

(a)   allowing said Internet communication system to establish a plurality of incoming communication links each to be initiated by a remote communication apparatus to access the Internet;

(b)   determining if said remote communication apparatuses each submits a request for communicating further with an offline remote communication apparatus; [and]

(c)   if yes, instructing said Internet communication system to send [an] outgoing communication information [ring signal] to a respective one of said offline remote communication apparatuses accordingly; [so as to establish another plurality of outgoing communication links.]

(d)   providing keep-alive operating instructions to be stored in keep-alive memory circuitry of said offline remote communication apparatuses each comprising a switchable main power-supply system that is deactivated for conserving energy in a keep-alive state, wherein said keep-alive operating instructions are rendered communicable from said keep-alive state with said Internet communication system; and

(e)   communicating said keep-alive operating instructions from said keep-alive state with said Internet communication system in such a manner that at least the presence of said communication information is delivered to said offline remote communication apparatus so as to establish a requested communication instantly.

(Amended)

50. The communication operating system of claim 49 further comprising the steps of (i) determining if a forwarding or routing service is requested, and (ii) if yes, sending another outgoing communication information [ring signal for initiating a third communication link] to another offline remote communication apparatus accordingly.